

Testimony of Robyn Pemberton, MD
[optional] Pediatrician at Frank Bush, MD, PC
to the Public Health Committee
Senate Bill 213- An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccines

March 7, 2022

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 213- *An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccines*.

My name is Dr. Robyn Pemberton and I am a pediatrician practicing in Manchester, CT. We are a private practice serving many of the surrounding communities. We take both private insurance and Husky.

Primary care pediatricians have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic since the beginning. Pediatricians are a trusted resource for families, and as such, we are often the first stop when parents have questions about their child and COVID-19. Over the course of the past two years, we have fielded countless calls from concerned parents and provided COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, all while keeping up with the typical well-child visits and caring for sick patients.

While these past two years have been challenging for our practices, SB 213 offers an opportunity to alleviate some of the staffing and capacity challenges of community practices across the state. It has been a challenge to recruit and hire nurses during the pandemic. There is an extreme shortage, and while we are lucky to have found good people, it is a burden on the practice. Pediatrics operates on a thin margin, and staffing is our main source of overhead. We have two wonderful medical assistants who have been with our practice for over a decade. They would be a greater asset to the practice if we could train them to give immunizations under the supervision of our doctors and lead nurse.

Thank you for your consideration of this position. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Robyn Pemberton, MD, FAAP, IBCLC